United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, condemning recent violence in El Salvador and expressing concern at partial implementation of Peace Accords, extends mandate of ONUSAL until 31 May 1994; calls on authorities to ensure that March 1994 elections are free and fair and asks Secretary-General to continue to assist in that regard.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Georgia begins first round of negotiations in Geneva today between Georgian and Abkhaz sides of conflict in Abkhazia.

+ Libya, in letter to Secretary-General, stresses readiness to cooperate with Security Council resolution regarding bombings of Pan Am and UTA planes; says it is willing to receive United Nations mission to verify that there are no terrorist training camps or groups in country.

+ Secretary-General, in message to CSCE Council meeting in Rome, stresses importance of regional organizations in dealing with regional problems, and value of understanding among peoples as way to curb ethnic enmity.

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The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) until 31 May 1994. The Council condemned recent acts of violence in the country and expressed concern that important elements of the Peace Accords remained only partially implemented. It urged the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to prevent political violence and to accelerate compliance with the Accords. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 888 (1993).

The Council called on the authorities in El Salvador to ensure that the elections to be held in March 1994 be free and fair and asked the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance in that regard. It warned that the recent violence could, if unchecked, negatively affect the peace process and the elections. The Council also reaffirmed the need for full and

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timely implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth. It urged the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN to remove all obstacles to implementation of the land transfer programme and stressed the need to accelerate reintegration programmes for ex-combatants of both sides in conformity with the Peace Accords.

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Secretary-General's use of his good offices in the peace process and for his efforts, in cooperation with the Government, aimed at the launching of an impartial and credible investigation into illegal armed groups. It called on all parties concerned to cooperate with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and ONUSAL in the task of verifying the parties' implementation of their commitments and urged them to complete that implementation within the framework of the agreed calendar and the new timetable proposed by ONUSAL.

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The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Edouard Brunner, began the first round of negotiations in Geneva today between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. According to United Nations spokesman, the negotiations are aimed at making progress towards achieving an overall political settlement of the conflict, and are expected to last a few days.

Ambassador Brunner is being accompanied at the talks by Feodor Starcevic, United Nations Representative in Georgia, and Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard, Commanding Officer of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). The Russian Federation, which is attending the meeting as a facilitator, is represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has an observer present, Vincenzo Manno.

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Libya has said that it is continuing to take positive steps to solve the crisis between it and the United States, the United Kingdom and France, and has reiterated its readiness to cooperate with regard to Security Council resolution 731 (1992). That resolution required the transfer to United States or United Kingdom jurisdiction of suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 and compliance with French requests regarding the bombing of UTA flight 772. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 24 November, Libya reaffirmed its readiness to receive a United Nations mission as soon as possible in order to verify that there were no terrorist training camps or groups on its territory.

Libya also proposed that its investigating counsellor and the French examining magistrate meet urgently in order to exchange views and establish procedures for inquiries regarding UTA flight 772. It said a date should be fixed for the French magistrate to go to Libya to complete his inquiries by hearing the statements of individuals and examining essential materials. Libya said that should the inquiries demonstrate that the two suspects in the

case should appear before the court, it would not object to them doing so. The letter went on to say that Libya wanted to bring an end to a matter that had clouded relations with France in a manner that would ensure justice for all parties involved.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) meeting in Rome today, stressed the importance of regional organizations and arrangements with the capacity to deal with regional problems. In the text, delivered by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geveva, he also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and coordination between Governments and peoples.

Breaking down barriers and the growth of understanding among peoples would contribute most to curbing ethnic enmity and the risk of conflict, the Secretary-General continued. Cooperation should be nurtured not only in the political and security fields but also in economic and social areas, in education, medicine, industry, science and the arts. It was in Member States' commitment to the Charter of the United Nations that international peace and security could be constructed, and with those values that the United Nations and the CSCE would together seek to achieve peace and stability in Europe in the years ahead.

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